



File Code: 1950
Date: December 21, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service is initiating an environmental analysis for the Otter Vegetation Management project on the Marienville Ranger District of the Allegheny National Forest. We are proposing to manage the proposed treatment areas to achieve a diversity of desired forest trees, a healthy and resilient ecosystem, and diminish the risks and consequences of forest health threats. Please see the attached proposal for more detail. You are receiving this letter because you have expressed interest in one or more of these projects or interest in projects on the Allegheny National Forest or you have property near or adjacent to one or more of these projects. This information is also posted on the Allegheny National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55025>.

I am interested in hearing your concerns, issues, or suggestions you have regarding this project. Please review the proposal and respond with site-specific comments about the proposed activities along with supporting information and rationale you believe will help identify issues that need to be addressed. I will consider all of your comments and determine whether we need to refine the proposed action or develop alternative ways to accomplish our objectives.

These projects are subject to pre-decisional objection pursuant to subparts A and B of 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218. This comment period serves as a scoping period for the project and as one of two planned designated periods for public comment that will provide opportunity for objections eligibility. In order for your scoping comments to be most useful, please submit them no later than January 22, 2019. Any comments submitted should meet the requirements identified in 36 CFR 218. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this project. There will be a second official formally designated public comment period at a later date for receiving comments on our supplemental environmental assessments, in which you can also establish eligibility to object.

Submit comments electronically to: comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us. Email attachments must be readable by plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), Word (.doc or .docx), or any other format supported by Microsoft Office applications. Please reference *Otter Project* on the subject line. If no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. Written comments can be sent to: Marienville Ranger District, Allegheny National Forest, 131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239. Hand-delivered comments will be accepted within our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Thank you for your continued interest in these projects. Questions regarding the proposed project can be directed to Kevin Treese at (814) 927-5759 or kevin.treese@usda.gov. I look forward to having you engaged in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fallon", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

ROB FALLON
District Ranger